

Submitter: Victoria G

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Please vote NO on House Bill 2458.

I am a parent of a child who identified as trans for three years as a teen. She was approved for testosterone injections and a double mastectomy at a paediatric gender clinic after two appointments with a psychologist. I saw firsthand how the affirmation model did not address any of the underlying conditions that contributed to my daughter's gender dysphoria. Nor did it fully inform my child on what the medical interventions could realistically do or not do to ensure my child had reasonable expectations. Sexual orientation and gender identity should not be conflated. Medical interventions are not needed for an individual to express their sexual orientation. In contrast, an individual experiencing gender dysphoria may think gender affirming medical interventions can help them. In those instances, the only way a patient can truly make an informed decision is by being challenged in a thoughtful and therapeutic manner to ensure the benefits outweigh the risks. My child was never challenged. Instead she was told testosterone was the answer to solving her issues with autism, social anxiety, internalised homophobia and poor body image. My child never went ahead with medical interventions. She began desisting at the age of 18 and today as an adult is grateful that I questioned the use of medical interventions without thorough assessments, discussion and preparation.